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NEWS RELEASE

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PSC GRANTS APPROVAL FOR ROWAN COUNTY POWER LINE
EKPC demonstrated adequate consideration of other routes, Commission says

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 7, 2006) – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has authorized East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. (EKPC) to construct an electric transmission line near Morehead.

In an order issued today, the PSC said that EKPC had demonstrated the line is the best option for providing reliable service in the rapidly growing area.

EKPC is planning to construct 6.9 miles of 138-kilovolt line to connect a substation near Morehead to a substation near Triplett.

Although the proposed route crosses 4.8 miles of the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Shelton Trace National Recreation Trail, EKPC showed it was preferable to other routes that posed problems either because of engineering issues or impacts on multiple property owners, the PSC said.

The route approved today is identical to one rejected by the PSC in August 2005. In that ruling, the PSC acknowledged that EKPC had demonstrated the need for additional transmission facilities in the area, but had not adequately considered other possible routes for the line, including the use of existing utility corridors and highway rights-of-way as alternatives to the proposed route.

The August 2005 order did not bar EKPC from applying again for the same route. But the PSC cautioned EKPC that any new application must demonstrate that other alternatives, including those using existing rights-of-way, had been thoroughly examined before any route was chosen as the preferred option.

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EKPC submitted the second application on Dec. 8, 2005. The new application included additional evidence of the company's consideration of other alternatives, as well as documentation of the process by which the U.S. Forest Service arrived at its preferred route for the line across the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The renewed application met the standard the PSC had set in its August 2005 decision, the Commission said in granting approval.

Today's order and other documents in the case are available on the PSC Web site, psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2005-00458.

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.

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